

Message Text

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R 250950Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4657

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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SUBJECT: SYRIAN ARAB SOCIALIST UNION PARTY CALLS FOR
SOLIDARITY WITH EGYPT

1. SUMMARY: IN RECENT PAMPHLET SYRIAN ARAB SOCIALIST UNION
PARTY CRITICIZES SHORTCOMINGS OF SINAI AGREEMENT BUT CALLED FOR
SYRIA TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY WITH EGYPT AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY
FOR EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN ARAB SOCIALIST UNION PARTY RECENTLY ISSUED PAMPHLET,
WITH PHOTO OF NASSAR ON COVER, OUTLINING ITS STAND ON SINAI
AGREEMENT. STATEMENT BEGAN WITH REVIEW OF ASU POLICY TOWARD
PRINCIPLE OF PARTIAL DISENGAGEMENTS. IT NOTED THAT PARTY OPPOSED
PARTIAL DISENGAGEMENT SETTLEMENTS, VIEWED STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY
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WITH MISGIVING AS ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE ARABS FROM THEIR SOVIET

FRIENDS AND GAIN TIME FOR ISRAEL, AND HAD INSISTED UPON CONVOKING GENEVA CONFERENCE TO ENSURE COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. STATEMENT THEN LISTED SHORTCOMINGS OF SINAI II IN TERMS WHICH DID NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM BAATHI ACCUSATIONS.

3. STATEMENT CONTINUES WITH APOLOGIA FOR EGYPTIAN DECISION, NOTING THAT EGYPT HAS NEVER BETRAYED ARABISM, HAS FOUGHT FOUR TIMES FOR ARAB-PALESTINIAN CAUSE, AND AT PRESENT CONFRONTS SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY ALLEVIATED BY NEGLIGIBLE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY WEALTHY ARAB OIL STATES. IT ADDS HOPEFULLY THAT "THIS SECOND AGREEMENT CANNOT TURN COURSE OF EGYPTIAN HISTORY UPSIDE DOWN AND CAUSE EGYPT TO DEVIATE FROM ITS COURSE."

4. IN CONCLUDING SECTION, QUESTION RHETORICALLY POSED, "NOW THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENT, WHAT IS THERE TO DO?" AT THIS POINT ASU BREAKS AWAY FROM BAATHI POSITION AND CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY WITH EGYPT, IN SPITE OF AGREEMENT'S DEFICIENCIES, TO PREVENT ISRAEL FROM DRIVING WEDGE BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA. ASU PEASANT-MEMBER QUOTED AS EXPRESSING CORE OF PARTY SENTIMENT: "IF THE AGREEMENT IS BAD BUT SYRIA REMAINS UNITED WITH EGYPT AND THE ARABS REMAIN UNITED ITS HARMFULNESS WILL DISAPPEAR DUE TO ARAB UNITY. BUT IF THE AGREEMENT IS PERFECT AND STILL LEADS TO THE SEPARATION OF SYRIA FROM EGYPT AND TO THE UNDERMINING OF ARAB SOLIDARITY, THEN IT WILL BE AN UNPARDONABLE CRIME." PAMPHLET STATES THAT EGYPT WILL NEVER BE SEPARATED FROM SYRIA AND WILL NEVER ABANDON SYRIA IN ANY CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL.

5. COMMENT: NASSERIST ARAB SOCIALIST UNION CAN BE EXPECTED TO EVINCE SYMPATHY FOR EGYPTIAN DECISION TO SIGN AGREEMENT, BUT PARTY'S WILLINGNESS TO BREAK WITH BAATH AND URGE A "LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD DEAL" POLICY UPON SARG IS RATHER BOLD DEVELOPMENT FOR CUSTOMARILY TAME ASU. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN INSIGNIFICANT SIZE OF ASU PARTY RANKS WE EXPECT THAT ITS INFLUENCE UPON SARG WILL BE INSIGNIFICANT.
MURPHY

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